

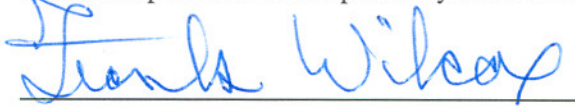
SOUTH CAROLINA POLICY for WETLAND RESERVE PROGRAM
COMPATIBLE USE PLAN DEVELOPMENT
May 3, 2007

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in South Carolina has experienced a continual growth in the number of easements acquired under the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). The permissible activities allowed under the warranty easement deed are very limited. A compatible use plan may be developed to allow other activities that are beneficial to both the wetland habitat and the wildlife.

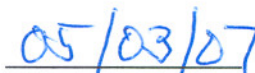
In an effort to streamline the process and provide consistency in developing and approving compatible use plans for WRP, the State Conservationist has delegated approval authority to the Assistant State Conservationist for Programs with prior reviews conducted by the State Biologist. The actions listed below will be conducted to insure WRP policy and regulations are being followed in South Carolina.

- 1) The warranty easement deed will be reviewed periodically with the landowner(s). This will be conducted when the compatible use plan is developed and each time the compatible use plan is renewed. Landowners not requesting a compatible use plan will be contacted at least every 5 years for review of the warranty easement deed.
- 2) For those landowners not needing a compatible use plan, the District Conservationist will certify in writing, using the provided form, that the warranty easement deed has been reviewed with the landowner(s) and that an on-site inspection of the property confirms that no activities are being conducted that would be considered a violation.
- 3) The most current version of the South Carolina compatible use plan template will be used when developing the compatible use plan. The template will be adjusted to provide the specific information required for each compatible use plan.
- 4) Compatible use plans will be developed according to national and state policy.
- 5) Each compatible use plan will be specific to the activities covered and will include an aerial photo with each item shown and identified.
- 6) All items included in the compatible use plan must provide reasonable justification as how it will benefit both the wildlife and easement habitat.
- 7) Any easements that were accepted with structural items present, will include a map with all structures identified. No new structures will be allowed.
- 8) Compatible use plans can not exceed 5 years, but can be written for a shorter period.
- 9) All new WRP easements will have an approved compatible use plan or District Conservationist certification completed prior to closing.
- 10) Compatible use plans and a map with all requested compatible use activities locations identified will be submitted to the State Biologist for review. The Assistant State Conservationist for Programs will approve plans following the State Biologist review. A copy of all compatible use plans and District Conservationist certifications will be kept on file at the State Office. The field office will maintain the original in the case file. A copy will be provided to the landowner(s).

The state specialists and supervisory staff are available for assistance.



State Conservationist


Date